Intelligencer.

NUMB. XVII.

Quantum ſtagna Tagi rudibus ſtillantia veni
Effluxere decus! quanto pretioſa metallo
Hermi ripa micat; quantas per Lydia culta
Deſpumat rutilas dives Pactolus arenas.
Claudian.

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The *Intelligencer*.

Mr. *Intelligencer*,

HAVING lately, with great Candor, and Impartiality, perused some of your *Papers*, upon the Distress and Poverty of this *Island*, which you take care to describe in the most Pathetick manner, you must forgive me if I differ from you, and think it one of the most Flourishing and Wealthy Kingdoms in the whole world, and to support my Opinion, I will venture to affirm, that there never was such Affluence of ready Cash, as at this present juncture; For have we not more *Bankers* then ever, were known among us? And whether the *Money* Circulates in *Specie*, or *Paper*, it is the same thing to us, since those, who would rather have *Cash* than *Paper*, can (as is well known) have their choice, whenever they please. It is to be presumed that no *Banker* gives a NOTE before the *Money* is first laid down on his *Counter*, then of Consequence there is as much *Money*, as there is *Paper*, and that we have a great deal of *Paper* is most certain, therefore a great deal of *Money*.

But

But I will proceed farther, and prove that we have much more *Money* than *Paper*, becauſe there are Multitudes who keep their own *Money*. This appears from the great number of *Iron cheſts* imported from *Holland*, within theſe laſt *Seven Years*; For what uſe can they be of, but to lodge *Money*. They are at leaſt two hundred. We will ſuppoſe, that theſe, one with another, may contain *two thouſand pounds* a piece, then the Sum total, amounts to *Four hundred thouſand pounds*, which is ſo much Superfluous, and unneceſſary *Caſh*.

If this *Iſland* were not very Wealthy, it is ſtrongly to be preſumed, That ſo many Wiſe and Able Heads, Men of great Learning and Superior Talents, whoſe Reputations reacht us from diſtant Regions, long before they came among us, ſo well diſtinguiſhed in their own *Countries* for their great Knowledge, in their ſeveral profeſſions, and here more eſpecially; remarkable for their ſpeaking in publick, and their profound Skill in Religion, Politicks, and Law; I ſay that Men of ſuch Accompliſhments would never quit their own Native Soil, where ſo many great Eſtates are daily made if they were not ſure that this *Iſland* muſt, on Account of its greater Wealth, Afford them Opportunities of making larger Acquiſitions, than they could at home.

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Have not almoſt all the Gentlemen through this *Kingdom*, for ſome years paſt, declined all profitable Employments, and left them to be filled by others. Can there be a Stronger Argument of their Wealth, than their chooſing to live at their eaſe, out of Office, rather than be at the ſmall trouble, which attends the diſcharge of a beneficial Employment?

Could ſo many Eſtated Gentlemen, through the *North* of *Ireland*, afford to keep ſo much of their Lands waſte, and untenanted, if they had not *Money* enough by them, to live without Tenants, and would not the Tenants likewiſe be glad, to take this Waſte Land to Plow, and Sow, but that they have ready money enough to buy *Bread Corn*, and other Neceſſaries, from all the World beſide.

As another ſignal mark of our Riches, there is Scarce a Gentleman, who does not educate his Sons at our UNIVERSITY (*which as the World ſees, wants not it's due Encouragement*) where they live at vaſt Expences, take Degrees, return to their Fathers, who without ever troubling *Law*, or *Goſpel*, maintain them afterwards at Home, like Gentlemen.

Do not many of our Nobility through Wantonneſs, and ſuperfluity, reſide conſtantly in another *Kingdom*, where, it is well known, they make a better Figure, as to *Houſes*, *Coaches*,

Coaches? and *Equipages*, than their Neighbours And do not our young *Peers*, and *Gentry* who go thither *to see the World*, *Game*, *Race*, *Drink* &c. beyond any in *Great-Britain*, of the same Age, and Quality, which they could not Possibly do, if their Agents here, had not an *undrainable fund*, *to supply them*? for as the *Philosopher* says. *Nemo dat quod non habet*. Or as the *Jugler* very Elegantly expresses it. *Where nothing is, there nothing can come out*,

If it be true, (I know it is confidently Reported) that a great Number of *English Robbers* are come over, that likewise is a very strong Argument of our Wealth; for they would never quit the *English Streets*, and *Roads*, for ours, unless they were sure to find an Advantage by the Change It is most certain we never had such a Number of *Robbers*, as at this very juncture; from whence we may conclude, that they could not Possibly Multiply thus, if they did not find Houses, and People enough to Rob, for all Professions and Trades encrease, according to the Encouragement they meet with.

Are not whole Streets adding every Day to our *Metropolis*, When one would think it Large enough already? Some entire Streets and many Houses, I must confess, are waste, and unhabited. Bnt does not this

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hew the Wealth and Wantonneſs of the Inhabitants who not content with their preſent Dwellings, change them for others, more coſtly and expenſive.

Do not great Numbers of our Inhabitants, daily go off to *America*? Will any Man, ſay this can be done with empty Pockets? Can any Man think otherwiſe, but that it muſt be the effect of vaſt ſuperfluity, when People wantonly take ſuch long Voyages, and Journeys, to go where they have no buſineſs? The laſt Argument I ſhall offer for the Wealth of this Kingdom, is the great Number of Beggars, in which it abounds; for it is a common Obſervation, that Riches are the parent of Idleneſs, Sloth, and Luxury, and are not theſe Naturally productive of Want and Beggary.

I could offer many more Arguments, but that I hope you and your Country Men, are ſufficiently convinced, by what I have ſaid, that *Ireland* is a place of great Wealth, Influence, and Plenty. Therefore let me adviſe you, the next time you put Pen to Paper, not to dreſs up *Hibernia* in Rags, and Dirt, but cloath her in *Scarlet*, and *fine Linen*; for ſhe can very well afford them. Draw the *God* of Riches, hovering over your *Iſland*, taking Ten Thouſands of Golden Feathers from his Wings, much more than the Inhabitants

habitants can gather, and thus will your Country Men, who have retrenched upon your laſt groundleſs Alarm, return to their former Hoſpitality, and we ſhall ſee *Halcyon*, that is, *Iriſh* Days once more.

SIR,

I Have peruſed your Arguments, and thus I Anſwer them. You were certainly faſt aſleep, and Writ them all in your Dream, nor do I in the leaſt doubt, when you awake from your Golden Slumber, but you will find your ſelf as much miſtaken, as the Man in Æſop, *who Dreamed the Devil ſhewed him a Treaſure, I wiſh you may not Likewiſe, be in the ſame pickle, and prove a Gold-Finder. between your own Sheets.*

Your's,

The *Intelligencer.*

FINIS.